

CLAIMS

1. An information processing apparatus for supplying a client terminal with usage-condition information regarding restrictions on the use of digital content via a network,
5 comprising:

setting means for setting usage conditions for the digital content and generating the corresponding usage-condition information;

10 storage means for storing the usage-condition information by associating the usage-condition information with the digital content; and

supply means for supplying the client terminal with the usage-condition information stored by the storage means via the network in response to a request from the client
15 terminal,

wherein the setting means includes a usage-condition setting module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

2. The information processing apparatus according to
20 claim 1, wherein an item in the usage conditions includes at least one of an allowed playback period, a number of permitted uses, a body temperature, a pulse rate, and a blood pressure of a user, a temperature, a humidity, a longitude, a latitude, and an altitude of an operating
25 location, an acceleration and a pressure applied to the

client terminal, and an authentication of the user.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the usage-condition setting module is plug-in format software.

5 4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising providing means for providing the client terminal with a usage-condition determination module corresponding to the usage-condition information via the network.

10 5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

6. An information processing method of an information processing apparatus for supplying a client terminal with usage-condition information regarding restrictions on the
15 use of digital content via a network, comprising:

a setting step of setting usage conditions for the digital content and generating the corresponding usage-condition information;

a storage step of storing the usage-condition
20 information by associating the usage-condition information with the digital content; and

a supply step of supplying the client terminal with the usage-condition information stored by the processing in the storage step via the network in response to a request from
25 the client terminal,

wherein the setting step is executed by a usage-condition setting module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

7. A recording medium storing a computer-readable program for supplying a client terminal with usage-condition information regarding restrictions on the use of digital content via a network, the program comprising:

a setting step of setting usage conditions for the digital content and generating the corresponding usage-condition information;

a storage control step of storing the usage-condition information by associating the usage-condition information with the digital content; and

a supply step of supplying the client terminal with the usage-condition information stored by the processing in the storage control step via the network in response to a request from the client terminal,

wherein the setting step is executed by a usage-condition setting module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

8. A program for causing a computer for supplying a client terminal with usage-condition information regarding restrictions on the use of digital content via a network to execute:

a setting step of setting usage conditions for the

digital content and generating the corresponding usage-condition information;

a storage control step of storing the usage-condition information by associating the usage-condition information
5 with the digital content; and

a supply step of supplying the client terminal with the usage-condition information stored by the processing in the storage control step via the network in response to a request from the client terminal,

10 wherein the setting step is executed by a usage-condition setting module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

9. An information processing apparatus for playing back digital content according to usage-condition information,
15 comprising:

storage means for storing the digital content;

acquisition means for acquiring the usage-condition information corresponding to the digital content stored in the storage means from a server via a network;

20 determination means for determining whether the digital content can be played back based on the usage-condition information; and

playback control means for controlling the playback of the digital content according to a determination result by
25 the determination means,

wherein the determination means includes a usage-condition determination module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

10. The information processing apparatus according to
5 claim 9, wherein an item in the usage conditions includes at least one of an allowed playback period, a number of permitted uses, a body temperature, a pulse rate, and a blood pressure of a user, a temperature, a humidity, a longitude, a latitude, and an altitude of an operating
10 location, an acceleration and a pressure applied to the information processing apparatus, and an authentication of the user.

11. The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the usage-condition determination module is
15 plug-in format software.

12. The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising request means for making a request to the server for a usage-condition determination module corresponding to the usage-condition information via
20 the network.

13. An information processing method of an information processing apparatus for playing back digital content according to usage-condition information, comprising:

a storage step of storing the digital content;
25 an acquisition step of acquiring the usage-condition

information corresponding to the digital content stored by the processing in the storage step from a server via a network;

5 a determination step of determining whether the digital content can be played back based on the usage-condition information; and

a playback control step of controlling the playback of the digital content according to a determination result by the processing in the determination step,

10 wherein the processing in the determination step is executed by a usage-condition determination module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

14. A recording medium storing a computer-readable
15 program for playing back digital content according to usage-condition information, the program comprising:

a storage control step of storing the digital content;

an acquisition step of acquiring the usage-condition information corresponding to the digital content stored by
20 the processing in the storage control step from a server via a network;

a determination step of determining whether the digital content can be played back based on the usage-condition information; and

25 a playback control step of controlling the playback of

the digital content according to a determination result by the processing in the determination step,

wherein the processing in the determination step is executed by a usage-condition determination module

5 corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.

15. A program for causing a computer for playing back digital content according to usage-condition information to execute:

10 a storage control step of storing the digital content;

an acquisition step of acquiring the usage-condition information corresponding to the digital content stored by the processing in the storage control step from a server via a network;

15 a determination step of determining whether the digital content can be played back based on the usage-condition information; and

a playback control step of controlling the playback of the digital content according to a determination result by

20 the processing in the determination step,

wherein the processing in the determination step is executed by a usage-condition determination module corresponding to each of at least one item included in the usage conditions.